JOSEPH, A PICTURE OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE
Text: Genesis 50:15-21

Intro: Joseph is one of the characters that stands out in the book of Genesis. A lot of Genesis deals with Joseph and all that happened to him. The providence of God is very remarkable in his life. He even recognized God's providence after the things happened. This is where faith comes in. Faith trusts the Lord when we do not realize He is moving in our lives. We will be able to see it when we look back. Joseph told his brothers that God had done a work in his life for the Jewish people. The brothers meant it for evil, but God turned it into something good.

THE CHARACTER OF JOSEPH
A. He could be trusted.
1. His father trusted him to check on his brethren. His father sent him to check on his brothers.
2. Potiphar trusted him with all of his household. He didn't even know what he had. The only thing that was withheld from Joseph was his wife.
3. The prison keeper trusted him and put him in charge of the prison. Even in jail someone noticed the character of trust in Joseph.
4. The baker and the butler trusted him to listen and interpret their dreams.
5. The Pharaoh of Egypt trusted him and put him in charge of the whole country. What a display of trust in Joseph and his ability to handle things.
6. God trusted him to look after His beloved people of Abraham. Joseph was put in a position to take care of the Jewish people for a long time. What a blessing and commitment to Joseph.

B. He could be tested.
1. The providence of God will always involve the testing of God's people under pressure. This is called the trying or trial of our faith. James 1:3
2. All the way through Joseph's life you will see him being tested of God and others. Joseph came through with flying colors. He passed the tests.
3. With each test Joseph seemed to be patience and acted godly. Nothing is said of his feelings or the words that he spoke while going through the tests.
4. Our faith in the Lord and His Word will be tested and tried. The Lord wants to know about us. The Devil will try us. The tests are necessary for our growth and maturity.

C. He was tender.
1. One of the greatest traits the saved should have is tenderness. We should feel love and express kindness to those around us. John 13:34,35; 1 John 3:14

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2. Paul teaches us to be kind and tenderhearted to one another. Eph. 4:32 Involved in this is our forgiving others of what they do and say about us. Jesus taught us to forgive others as we are forgiven of God. Matt. 6:9-15
3. Joseph reveals his tenderness to Potiphar, the prisoners, Pharaoh, and to his own brothers.
4. It is always a moving passage to read about Joseph and his brothers being reunited in Egypt. It even moves us to tears knowing how much they wronged him and how much he loved them.

II. THE CONDUCT OF JOSEPH
A. He was spiritual.
   1. If we are to be guided by the providence of God, we must be spiritual. We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This simply means we are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:18
   2. Our spirituality will help us trust the Lord and be patient during the troubled times. The psalmist said there are times when we need to be still and know that God is God.
   3. Very little is said of Joseph during all the troubles he endured and went through. In each time of trouble, Joseph was the best he could be during that time.
   4. We are to live in the Spirit and walk or conduct our lives in the Holy Spirit. Gal. 5:25 We are to allow Him to do a work within us.

B. He was a servant.
   1. All the way through his life, Joseph displaced his servant heart. The Lord is the Master and we are to be His servants. The idea is that we are His slaves.
   2. He served his father, his owner, his prison keeper, the prisoners, Pharaoh, and his own people. Acting as a servant, he became a great man that God used in a great way.
   3. Jesus said the greatest among His people would be the one who served others. This is the example the Lord has left for us.
   4. Jesus washed the disciples' feet to teach them they should be servants. As believers, our main job is to be a servant of the Lord.

C. He was separated.
   1. Paul teaches us to come out from among them and be separated. 2 Cor. 6:17 As children of God, we cannot be of and like the world.
   2. There could have been a lot of different reactions to what happened to Joseph, but he was what he was in his circumstances.
   3. He became the best slave. He became the best prisoner. He became the best leader. He became the best provider.
   4. Your relationship to God should be a very close one. When you are close to the Lord, your circumstances will not change you.

D. He was sensitive to others.

1. As a young man wronged by his brothers, he still loved them. He wept when he saw them in Egypt.
2. As a servant, he would not wrong his master, even though he had been wronged. During temptation he was true to his master and would not hurt him.
3. As a prisoner, he did not become bitter and sour, he cared for the prisoners. He would even have compassion on the butcher and baker.
4. As a forgotten servant, he continued to be sensitive to others. He displayed a wonderful spirit of a servant of the Lord and others.

III. THE CONSECRATION OF JOSEPH
A. He was consecrated to his father.
   1. He was an obedient son who carried out the wishes of his father. He was greatly loved of Jacob and Jacob expressed that love for him. Joseph also loved his father.
   2. He was loved of his father and hated by his brothers. That did not change his consecration to his father.
   3. The Lord has set forth His Word concerning the son's attitude and action toward his father. The son is to honor the father and mother.

B. He was consecrated to his master.
   1. Joseph was born free, but was sold into slavery. His own brothers sold him to the Midianites who sold him in Egypt.
   2. Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's household. When tempted, he would not offend his owner.
   3. Joseph went about diligently serving his earthly master to the best of his ability. Paul told the servants to serve the masters as unto the Lord. Eph. 6:5-6

C. He was consecrated to his prison keeper.
   1. He was wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife and put into prison. He did not spend much time in self pity.
   2. In prison he was put in charge of the prisoners. He was consecrated to the prison keeper and the job that was given to him.
   3. Can you imagine what kind of trust it took and discernment it took for the prison keeper to turn things even to a prisoner?

D. He was consecrated to Pharaoh of Egypt.
   1. The butler remembered a young man who interpreted his dream, after two years. Joseph kept right on doing the work the prison keeper had committed to him.
   2. Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh and was put in charge of all of Pharaoh's kingdom.
   3. He served Pharaoh with consecration and diligence. If we could serve the Lord spiritually in all of our situations what a testimony we would have for the Lord.

E. He was consecrated to His Lord.
1. All of the trouble started when Joseph revealed a dream he had. I do not find where he was full of pride or acted out of pride.
2. When Joseph's father died, he revealed to his brethren how God had turned everything that had happened to him around.
3. He recognized God would take care of his family in Egypt for over 400 years. That is providence.

IV. THE CONVICTION OF JOSEPH

A. He had conviction for the right.
1. He refused to commit adultery with his owner's wife. It wasn't right for Joseph to take his owner's wife even if she was willing.
2. While he probably expressed human emotions at the things that happened, he was patient and productive.
3. He believed what was right and he did what was right through all of his troubles. That is the difference in our day and time. People do not care about what is right like they use to.

B. He had conviction for the Redeemer.
1. Joseph honored the Lord in all that happened to him. May we have a great conviction for what is right because of the Redeemer who saved us.
2. His life speaks to us and challenges us to live right when wrongs are done to us. We are instructed to allow the Lord to take vengeance and not take it into our own hands.
3. The Devil tries to make us believe that it is right to do wrong in troubled times. We may have the thought and even put it into action.

C. He had conviction about respect.
1. He had respect for the Lord and His ways. We are to reverence the Lord and His holy Word.
2. He respected those who were over him. He acted out of respect. We are to show respect for those who are older and our leaders.
3. The flesh often will act ungodly when it faces troubles and pressure. There is no telling what any of us will do when put under a load and pressure. May we stay close to the Lord so we will react with respect.

D. He had conviction about the rules.
1. Joseph didn't make the rules. He didn't control some of the things that happened to him, but he did have some convictions about the rules.
2. Joseph knew the rules and he followed them as we should today. Rules and laws are made for our benefit and good.
3. The way he treated his owner, the prison keeper, the prisoners, the Pharaoh, and his own brothers reveal this conviction for the rules.
4. Every time I read about Joseph seeing his brothers in Egypt for the first time, it moves me. He was moved to weeping.
5. After Jacob died, the brothers thought Joseph would get even. They thought he might be putting on a good show.
6. Joseph assured them of his forgiveness. This is contrary to human nature and the flesh.

WHO IS THIS?
Text: Matthew 16:13-17

Introduction:

A. Some saw in Him a "good" person.
1. Like the weeping prophet Jeremiah:
2. Like the prophet Elijah, who could pray fire down from heaven:
3. Like the preacher sent from God, John the Baptist.

B. Some saw in Him an evil person.

D. B. Wright

C. What some others have said of Jesus:
1. Renin, the Frenchman, "In Jesus is condensed all that is good and exalted in nature."
2. Thomas Paine, the infidel, "The morality that he preaches has not been exceeded by any."
3. Rousseau stated, "If the life and death of Socrates were those of a martyr, the life and death of Jesus Christ were those of God."
4. The Jew, Disraeli, acknowledged the fact that, "Jesus has conquered Europe and this changed its name to Christendom."
5. Thomas Jefferson, said, "Jesus Christ has given to us the most sublime and benevolent code of morals ever offered to man."
6. The great Theologian and Biblical critic, David Strauss, said, "Jesus remains the highest model of religion within the reach of our thoughts. No perfect piety is possible without his presence in the heart."

I. WHO IS THIS ONE BORN WITHOUT A HUMAN FATHER, LYING IN A MANGER IN A DONKEY STALL? A STAR OVER HIS BED.

A. The son of a Jewish virgin engaged to Joseph.
1. As told by the Prophet Isaiah: Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
2. Fulfilled: Matthew 1:18 - Now the birth of
Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child, of the Holy Ghost.

B. The "Seed of the woman: Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

C. Much More! The Virgin born son of God, sent to saved sinners!
2. Galatians 4:4-5
3. This is the testimony of Peter in v 16.
4. This is what the Father said:
   b. Matthew 17:5b
5. This is the "profession of faith" upon which Philip baptized the Ethiopian. Acts 8:36b–38.
6. This was the testimony of John the Baptist, John 1:34.

II. WHO IS THIS SITTING ON THE CURB OF A WELL, TALKING TO A NOBODY, A SOCIAL OUTCAST?
A. John 4:6 - "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour." v7 "There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink." v27 "And upon this came his disciples, and marveled that he talked with the woman."

B. He was God's love gift for sinners - Romans 5:8.


D. The sinner's Saviour: Matthew 1:21.

E. The Bearer of Living Water, to eternally quench the thirst of the soul.
1. The state of the unsaved soul made plain:
   a. Isaiah 57:20-21, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."
   b. King Hezekiah's truthful testimony: Isaiah 38:17
2. The soul's search: Psalm 42:7, "Deep calleth unto the deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: as the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."
3. Living water is available, John 4:10; 7:37-38.

III. WHO IS THIS WITH A WASH PAN AND TOWEL, WASHING HUMAN FEET?
A. 1 John 13:4-5, "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciple's feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded."

B. He Who, though He was equal with God, humbled Himself to become a servant, Philippians 2:6-8.

C. The great physician, who came to minister to your needs, Matthew 20:18, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

IV. WHO IS THIS RIDING DOWN MT. OLIVET ON A DONKEY?
B. The "King" the wise men sought!
C. The blessed and only potentate: 1 Timothy 6:15-16.
D. The JUDGE before whom all shall bow and confess!
   1. John 5:22
   2. Romans 14:11-12

V. WHO IS THIS HANGING FROM A CROSS BETWEEN TWO NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS??
A. The "passers-by" said...Thou thatdestroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." Matthew 27:40.

B. One known to do no wrong!
   1. One of the criminals, "This man hath done nothing amiss,", Luke 23:40.
   2. Pilate, "I having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things wherefore ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.", Luke 23:24b-25.
   3. Pilate's wife, "Have thou nothing to do with this just man."
   4. Tempted in all ways we are without sin!

C. One who was known to Go About Doing GOOD, Acts 10:36, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

D. The good Shepherd, John 10:11.

E. The Lamb of God, John 1:29.


VI. WHO IS THIS STANDING AT YOUR HEART'S DOOR, KNOCKING, CALLING OUT TO YOU???
A. Saying as to the woman of Samaria...John 4:10.
B. Isaiah 45:20
C. Matthew 11:28
D. Revelation 3:20
E. He is the great physician who alone can heal all your soul's diseases! Luke 5:31-32, "And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Please pray and consider: Please consider giving an offering to help with the expenses and goals of this ministry. The paper and books are free to you, but they do cost something and someone! Help us in this great outreach!
GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBER! (Z)

Introduction:
A. The FACT - Growth and development do not just happen.
B. The FOCUS of this series.
   1. The ANNOUNCEMENT of areas for our focus (110 words)
   2. The ACTIVATION which is needed.
   3. The ADHERENCE which is needed.
C. The FOCUS of this lesson - GOOD CHURCH MEMBERS WILL BE ZEALOUS AND ZESTFUL!

I. THE COMPREHENSION OF THE TERMINOLOGY!
A. The term ZEALOUS.
   1. Means to be filled with - marked by - or motivated by zeal.
   2. Means to be enthusiastic or intensely interested in a cause or ideal.
B. The term ZESTFUL.
   1. Means an invigorating or keen quality.
      a. Note the text verse of Titus 2:14
      b. Illustrate the church of Laodicea, Revelation 3:14-19.
      c. Notice the warning of II Timothy 3:5
         (1) This deals with the work of the Spirit - not emotionalism.
         (2) The Spirit of God produces zestfulness and zealousness in the work of God.

II. THE CAUTION THAT IS TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT!
A. The PERCEPTION - This zealfulness and zestfulness needs to be according to knowledge.
   1. What are good works?
   2. Good works are what God has said to do, Ephesians 2:10.

III. THE CATEGORIES WHERE THESE TRAITS ARE NEEDED!
A. Zealfulness and zestfulness in WORSHIP!
   1. This produces an atmosphere of spiritual excitement.
   4. What is worship? It is adoration and praise to the Lord. It carries with it the idea of having reverence for the Lord.
B. Zealfulness and zestfulness in WORK!
   1. This produces an atmosphere of spiritual excitement.
   3. John 9:4
C. Zealfulness and zestfulness in WALK!
   1. Walking with the Lord ought to be an exciting adventure.
   2. Walking with the Lord ought to be an enriching endeavor.

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A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Lord, in your grace and mercy
You left me a while longer here
I saw my birthday and Christmas
And now it's a brand New Year!

Lord, I'm asking you to help me
Guide each step on life's pathway
May I hear each tender whisper
And give you my life each day.

That your name may have honor
That my deeds will point to you
For it's the least I could ever do
For what you give the whole year through.

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DOUBTING THE POWER OF GOD

Text: John 20:24-29

Introduction: Doubt means - "a lack of confidence and not enough trust of faith in someone." If all of us will be honest with ourselves, we all doubt the Power of God in some way. We may say and believe that God is all-Powerful; the same today as yesterday. BUT, where is our faith? Let's think about some of the things we doubt God in.

I. DOUBT THE POWER OF GOD FOR PEOPLE TO BE SAVED
A. There are some people we are convinced that they will not be saved.
   1. Maybe there are not as many being saved, but God can still reach them.
B. We become so convinced of this that we stop trying to be a witness in front of some people.
   1. Romans 1:16 - We need to always let the word be seen in our life.

II. DOUBT THE POWER OF GOD TO RETURN SOME SAVED PEOPLE BACK TO GOD.
A. What if Nathan had never taken the Word of God to David?
B. Because of our hypocrical actions we stand in the way of some person repenting.

III. DOUBT THE POWER OF GOD IN OUR PRAYERS
A. The most important part of a Christian’s life today is often the most neglected part.
B. James 1:16.
C. The reason not many souls are being saved and hearts getting right with God is lack of prayer.
D. PRAYERLESSNESS results in CARELESSNESS.

IV. DOUBT THE POWER OF GOD IN THE CALL OF YOUR LIFE
A. God has called us into his service, whether you are a preacher, teacher, deacon or just got saved. He wants you to serve him.
B. God promised he would take care of us, Matthew 6.
C. We think we need to help God out and this takes us out of His service. This is not God’s will. (Ex: the Apostle Paul).

V. DOUBT THE POWER OF GOD TO EXPERIENCE REVIVAL
A. Thomas doubted the power of God that He would do what he said He would.
   1. II Chronicles 7:14.
B. Meeting, Singing, and Fellowship is not revival.
C. You cannot go to a revival. Revival has to come to us.
D. Is there something holding you back? Making you doubt, lack of faith?

VI. DOUBT THE POWER OF GOD TO SUPPLY OUR NEEDS
A. When we don’t tithe, we are not only stealing from God, we don’t trust him.
B. When we worry.
C. When we don’t go to church. Feel we don’t need to. Stronger than me.

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THE COMMITTED CHURCH
Text: Acts 6:8-7:1; 7:51-8:4

Intro:
1. Commitment is necessary for church growth. The early Church prospered because of the commitment of its membership.
2. Stephen’s Commitment symbolizes that of the Church.

I. HISTORY:
A. Stephen’s character - A deacon 6:5, described in 6:8-10.
D. Stephen’s sermon - 7:2-53.
   1. Jewish history.
E. Stephen’s death.
   1. Jews convicted - v 54.
   2. Stephen’s vision - v 55, 56.
   3. Jew’s reaction - v 57, 58.

4. Stephen’s prayer - v 59, 60.
   (Commitment gave Stephen boldness to make this great witness.)

II. STEPHEN’S COMMITMENT:
A. Committed to God.
   1. Recognition - Isaiah 45:2.
   2. Reverence.
B. Committed to Christ.
   1. Recognition - as Saviour - as Lord.
   2. Love “Why say ye Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say”.
   3. Discipleship - follow Him.
C. Committed to His Church.
   2. Covenant - 2nd paragraph.
   3. For God’s glory - Ephesians 3:21.
D. Committed to the Message.
   1. Realization of the importance - only hope for lost.
   2. Realization of the power - Romans 1:16
   3. Committed to the spreading of that message.

III. RESULT:
A. Stephen’s death.
   1. For the cause of Christ.
   2. Paul - Philippians 1:12.
C. Encouragement.
   1. 6:4 - scattered - preached.
   2. 8-5 - Philip.

Conclusion:
A. Stephen - committed - Church prospered.
B. ARE YOU?

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PLEASE HELP US: We have printed 4,000 copies of a hymnal in the Filipino language. Bro. Glen Knight has been a blessing to the Sounding Out the Word ministry along with the County Avenue Missionary Baptist Church of Texarkana, Bro. Glen ask me about printing a hymnal for them to use in the Philippine Islands. The hymnal has been printed. If you want to help us with the cost and enable us to print more free material, send us an offering to help with the expense of printing this hymnal.

Hallelujah! Praise The Lamb!
A GODLY HUSBAND
Ephesians 5:25-33

Introduction: As husbands we are to model our role in the home after the standards found in God’s Word. The standard is high; however, we cannot afford to lower or compromise in any way. We’ve already mentioned the need for leaders in the home. We also stressed the importance of the home to our society. The importance of this lesson we share today cannot be stressed too much. Let’s look together at what God teaches us to be Godly husbands.

I. THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE - Colossians 3:19, “You husbands, keep continually loving your wives, and stop being bitter toward them.” (Greek translation)

A. The Matter of Love
1. Love does not do what it feels - it does what is right.
2. Dying to self is the “key” to love - 1 Corinthians 13.
3. Love is not bitter - The literal meaning of the Greek word translated “bitter” is exasperate or irritate.

B. The Manner of Love - Four Attitudes Toward Your Wife
1. Consideration - being understanding and sensitive to her needs.
2. Chivalry - She is both “wife and sweetheart”. Sometimes my wife and I go away for an “over nighter”. We stay in a motel so we can get away from the phone, and enjoy an uninterrupted dinner together. Find time to “date” your wife and show her how you feel about her. If you have children, find a baby sitter or call a friend and ask them to keep the kids. You can even “trade off” doing this for each other. It doesn’t have to be an out of town date, just a place where you can be together.
3. Communication - Five levels of Communication
   a. Using Clichês - “Hi, did you have a good day? Have you heard from your folks?” This is the shallowest level of communication.
   b. Relate facts - “Did you read the paper today? It looks like rain tomorrow. And the football team doesn’t seem to be that good this year.”
   c. Stating of Opinions - “I think this is going to happen” or “I believe that this is the way we ought to do things”.
   d. Expressing and Understanding each other’s feelings - “If we go on that trip and leave Travis with the Jefferson’s, will they remember to pick him up after football practice? Will they know how he likes his sandwiches? I am already uncomfortable.”
   e. Revealing our Needs - “I really need you to hold me right now” or “I need you to go for a walk with me. We need to talk.”

4. Communion - It is when you reach the last level of communication when you are able to share your deepest needs, desires, and dreams that you enjoy the most intimate relationship.
C. Motivation of Love
   1. Love for her as a person—not just lust.
   2. Treating her as a part of your own body - Ephesians 5:28 & 31.
      a. Appreciation - Thank her for what she does and for who she is.
      b. Forgiveness - Ask for forgiveness when you do or say things that hurt, and be willing to forgive her when she does the same thing to you.
      c. Reconcile - Ephesians 4:26-27

II. THE COMMITMENT OF LEADERSHIP - Titus 2:6-8
A. In Physical Things - Personally
   1. Seriousness - v6
   2. Sincerity - v7a
   3. Sound Speech -v 8
B. In Spiritual Things
   1. Bible Teaching
   2. Worship
      a. Abraham - Genesis 35:2
      b. Joshua - Joshua 24:15
      c. Cornelius - Acts 10:2
      d. Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:33

10 Priceless Gifts You Can Give Your Wife
1. Hug her in front of the kids.
2. Bring her flowers "just because."
3. When she's trying to get your attention, stop what you are doing and listen.
4. Imagine you are not yet married to her, but still dating. Do something typical of an engaged couple.
5. Make the bed in the morning while she's in the shower.
6. Tell her something nice you've thought about her this week.
7. Don't allow the children to talk back to her. Insist they treat her with respect.
8. Give her a love note, poem or small gift on the monthly anniversary of your wedding.
9. Ask her advice about a decision you are wrestling with. Let her know that her opinion is important to you.
10. Tell her she's sexy. Tell her again and again, especially if you've been married a long time.

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TAKING A GOOD LOOK AT SIN
Text: Matthew 25:46; John 6:27; John 10:28

INTRO: There are many who make every excuse under the sun not to look at their condition before God. But to delay, or neglect this most vital of subjects, is to court everlasting damnation. In the following message we will see some things which are vital to your eternity. So, LOOK and LIVE!

I. TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT SIN'S NATURE.
A. It is transgression against God (I John 3:4; Isaiah 1:4).
B. It is unrighteousness (I John 5:7; Proverbs 14:12).
C. It is the absence of faith (Romans 14:23; Proverbs 21:4; Hebrews 11:1-3).

II. TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT SIN'S CHARACTERISTICS.
A. Sin looks different to man than to God (Psalm 139:23,24).
B. Sin is deceitful (Hebrews 3:13).
   1. It appears to turn darkness to light (John 3:19).
   2. It appears to have more freedom than serving God (Psalm 10:3,4).
C. It does not pay dividends (Romans 6:23).
D. It does not give pleasure (Hebrews 11:25).

III. TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO ABOUT SIN.
A. You should think (reason) about your sinful condition (Isaiah 1:18). Remember, Satan will do his best to keep you from seeing your true condition before God (II Corinthians 4:4; I Peter 5:8).
B. You must believe on the only One Who can remove sin (Acts 13:38,39; Acts 16:31).
C. If you are a child of God, you must be constantly putting away sin from your life (Romans 12:1,2).

Conclusion:
A. Sin has a nature!
B. Sin has a character.
C. By the grace of God you can overcome sin.
   1. Not be sinless.
   2. But turn your sin over to Jesus.

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A CHRISTIAN'S MOST PRECIOUS ASSET
TEXT: Hebrews 3:1; 4:14; 10:23

INTRO:
A. What is our most precious personal asset?
   1. Not thinking of our salvation.
   2. Nothing that money can buy.
   3. Not our homes, friends, family, etc.
   4. Not our name, our reputation, etc.
B. It is our profession of faith.
   1. "What is a "profession of faith?"
   2. "Profession" is to say the same with another, to assent, accord, agree with, confess.
C. We made a profession of faith.
   1. We agreed with God about sin.
   2. We agreed with God about guilt.
   3. We agreed with God about helplessness.
   4. We agreed with God about Jesus.
   5. God did not come to our terms, we came to His.
D. It is "OUR" profession of faith.
   1. Nothing else is as distinctly ours.
      a. Other people may have the same name.
      b. Others have the same mother, father.
      c. Marriage involves another.
   2. No one can touch our profession.
      a. No one can make it good.
b. No one can make it bad.
3. Timothy had a good one (I Timothy 6:12).

I. THE OBJECT OF OUR PROFESSION...3:1
A. Who is the Object of our profession?
1. The object of our profession is Christ.
2. “Consider” is to look at closely, to observe.
   a. To consider attentively.
   b. To fix one’s eyes or mind upon.
3. Those Hebrews were allowing their attention to relax as far as Messiah and the New Testament were concerned.
4. Let us consider Jesus!
   a. Not the creed of the Church or of other Christians.
   b. Not Father or Mother or Pastor.
B. Why is Jesus the Object of our profession?
1. Because He is the Apostle.
   a. “Apostle” means one sent on a commission.
2. Because He is our High Priest.
   a. This speaks of the humanity of Christ.
   b. He must be both human and Divine in order to accomplish His mission.
3. Consider what? His faithfulness...v.2

II. THE HELP OF OUR PROFESSION...4:14
A. The Qualification of our Helper...v.14
1. Because He is the great High Priest.
   a. The word “great” separates the High Priest from the Old Testament High Priests.
   b. Others have to offer sacrifices for their own sins, but not this “great High Priest.”
   c. He can help because He has no sin.
2. Because He has “passed into the heavens.”
   a. “He has passed through the heavens with the present result that He is in heaven.”
   b. When Jesus had offered Himself and rose from the grave, He entered into the heavens.

B. The Understanding of our Helper...v.15
1. Our Helper is approachable and sympathetic.
2. Our High Priest is able to sympathize with our infirmities.

C. The Invitation of our Helper...v.16
1. “Let us come”
   a. To draw near, to come to.
   b. This privilege is always available.
3. At His throne we find two things:
   a. “Mercy” a feeling of sympathy, active compassion.
   b. “Grace” to help in time of need.

III. THE DANGER OF OUR PROFESSION...10:23
A. We can’t lose our salvation, but we can lose the POWER of our profession.
1. We can lose our influence.
2. If salt has lost its savor?

B. Therefore, we are to hold it fast.

BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN COPIED
1982 Bible Conference Outlines
1989 Bible Conference Outlines
1990 Bible Conference Outlines
Going All the Way by Glen Tropp
John Chapters 1-3 by Glen Tropp
Right Sermons by Wright by D.B. Wright
Scanning the Scriptures I by Glen Tropp
Scanning the Scriptures II by Glen Tropp
Scanning the Scriptures III by Glen Tropp
Scanning the Word I
Scanning the Word II
Scanning the Word III
Scanning the Word IV
Word Studies by Glen Tropp
Reflections of the Heart by Dovie Brown
The Great Conflict by Glen Tropp
Outlines of Ephesians by Ray O. Brooks
Sermons by Luther Crawford
What I have in Christ by Charles Swilling
Victory in Jesus by Jesse R. Spurlock
The Salvation of the Lord by Charles Swilling

If you want these books, we ask that you send an offering to help us with the copying costs. We are glad to make these books available to you. The copying expense has gone up from 3 cents double sided to 4 cents a side or 8 cents double sided.

IV. WHY SHOULD WE HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION?
A. Because it is the Power of our Testimony.
   1. If we have a good profession, we will have power.
B. Because it is the Anchor of our Witness.
   1. If our profession is tainted we will be timid in our witnessing.
   2. It is difficult to witness to people who have seen us at our worst.
C. Because it is our most Valuable Asset.
   1. The fruit of it endures.
   2. The dividends are in heaven.
D. It is our Indestructible Possession.
   1. No one can destroy it.
   2. We alone have control over it.

Julius Copeland, 2542 Hwy 157, Judsonia, Ar 72081

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS
New years resolutions
At this time of the year,
We hear everyone making.
But are we really sincere?

To resolve to do things better,
God will be pleased I know.
With His help and others,
In God's loving grace we will grow.

As we look back over the years
And search our souls deep,
How many last years resolutions
Did we really try to keep?

Look at our sins of commission,
I'm afraid it will make us sad.
But also our sins of omission,
They truly are just as bad.

Where have we failed the Master?
Did we teach and work and pray?
Did we witness to our neighbor,
And ask God to lead the way?

I believe in taking inventory
Of the year that's passed us by.
And ask God to help us daily,
To do better with goals set high.

But it's not just a yearly commitment,
We must go to our God every day.
Like Daniel standing by his window,
We need to take time to fervently pray.

Asking His will in every day life,
And daily read His word.
Listening to the wooing of the Holy Spirit,
And following, when we have heard.

Dovie Brown, 2619 Sinclair St., Pasadena, TX 77503
November 4, 1895
At Lumpkins Ranch Deer Camp

LOOKING UNTO THE HILLS
Text: Psalm 121:1-8

INTRO: "Hills" has been an important word and place with God. Some of God’s greatest manifestations has been on a hill or mountain. Man has had some of his greatest experiences with God on a hill.

The greatest of all of God's demonstrations of His love for man was on a hill called Calvary. Because of this hill and what happened there, we can walk the streets of gold some day.

The Psalmist said: "My help cometh from the Lord.” We can say the same words for without Jesus we would all be lost with no hope of salvation.

Psalm 121:1 We need to lift our eyes to the One that died on a hill called Calvary that made it possible to be saved.

I. GOD HAD A HILL READY WHEN THE FLOOD BEGAN TO RECEDE (GENESIS 8:4). 150 days

water was on the earth.
A. Give the account before the flood (Genesis

PROGRESS REPORT FOR 1996

OUTLINES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT 5,000 Jan.
THE FAMILY 5,000 Feb.
A STUDY OF PSALM 119 5,000 April
WHAT IF THIS WERE YOUR LAST DAY TO LIVE? 5,000 April
THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS 2,000 May
THE 42ND ANNUAL PASTORS AND MISSIONARIES CONFERENCE 5,000 June
WOMEN FOR HIS VESSELS 5,000 July
THE FUNDAMENTALS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING 6,000 Aug.
GOING THE SECOND MILE 5,000 Oct.
FAITHFULNESS OF DEACONS 3,000 Oct.
A FILIPINO HYMNAL 4,000 Dec.
Copies of Various Books 2,230 copies

Total Books printed 52,230 copies

In 1996 four books were paid for by three individuals and one church. Gifts like this help us do more in our printing ministry. What a great investment in the truth and the cause of the Lord. What a great way to remember a loved one or a dear preacher of the gospel I hope and pray that more churches and individuals will invest in the Lord's cause this way. It takes about $1,800.00 to print 5,000 copies of a 50 page book. We have the material to print another 14 or 15 books under this ministry.

6:5).
B. What kind of man was Noah? (That God called to build the ark): a just man and perfect in his generation.

C. Others could have entered the ark but refused. Compare to salvation today for the ark was a type of Jesus.

D. Noah's family entered the ark and their lives were saved. Is your family saved spiritually?

II. A MOUNTAIN WAS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR ABRAHAM.

A. When God called, Abraham answered (Genesis 22:1). God's call is not always answered.

B. What did God call Abraham for?
1. To offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:2).
2. Abraham didn't wait a week but he rose early the next morning (v.3).

C. Abraham had every intention to carry out God's command (v.10).

D. Abraham saw the substitute ram caught in a thicket by his horns (v.13).
1. It saved Isaac's life.
2. This ram was a type of Jesus that died as our substitute for sin (John 1:29, I Peter 1:18-20).
III. TWO MOUNTAINS IN THE LIFE OF ELIJAH THAT TOUCHED HIS LIFE (I KINGS 18 AND 19).
A. He stood on Mount Carmel alone with God (others were there but not for him).
   1. Elijah faced 850 false prophets and many of Israel (450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves).
   2. Give the account of Baal’s 450 prophets as they attempted to offer a burnt offering to Baal (I Kings 18:23-29).
   3. Give the account of Elijah’s offering the burnt offering (v.30-39).

B. On Mount Carmel again (I Kings 41-45).
   1. Verse 41: The sun was shining and a drought was on but Elijah said: “There is a sound of abundance of rain.”
   2. A saved person living close to God can see things that the unsaved and backslider can’t see.

C. Mount Horeb touched Elijah’s life.
      a. Elijah thought he was the only one that served God (v.10).
      b. This question God asked: “What doest thou here,” could have been repeated many times.
   3. Elijah looked for God in the wrong things (v.11-12): strong wind, earthquake, fire, still small voice.
      a. Many in our day seem to think God can be found in many places that He is not.
      b. By what they put first in their lives.

IV. MOUNT OF TRANFIGURATION (MATTHEW 17:1-8).
A. Notice the three: Peter, James, and John. The same three that went further with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.
B. Moses and Elijah appeared unto them.
C. Peter wanted to build three tabernacles, putting Moses and Elijah on the level with Jesus (v.4).
D. God spoke from heaven and said: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.”
E. This is good advice today; we need to hear Jesus.

Future Books to be Printed
- Sermon Outlines by Luther Crawford
- 52 Bible Doctrine Outlines by Randy Cloud
- Basic Bible Training (English) by Raymond McAlister
- Reflections of the Heart by Dowie Brown
- My Personal Notebook by Neal Clark
- What We Believe by Paul Magness
- Victory in Jesus by Jesse Spurlock
- Lord, Teach us to Pray by James Kirkland
- Sermon Outlines by Vernon Lierly
- Sermon Outlines by Raymond Howard
- My Favorite Salvation Sermons by David Harris
- Outline Studies in Malachi by O.H. Griffith
- Human Emotions by Sammy Eldredge
- Preaching from the Parables by Harold Walker
- What We Have in Christ by Charles Swilling
- The Salvation of the Lord by Charles Swilling
- Teaching with a Purpose by Muncy Harris

TEACH ME TO WAIT
Text: Isaiah 40:31

INTRO:
I. ILLUSTRATION, CROSS-COUNTRY RACE TEAM
   A. They finally got ahead, but in unfamiliar territory.
   B. Teammate had neglected to bring map.
   C. Had to drop back and follow others.
   D. Many treat life and eternity this way.
   E. Others burn out in fleshly energies and fall short of Christian happiness and perseverance.
   F. There is a way to keep on keeping on as a Christian, but it is not in human wit or strength.
   G. It is dependent upon our using God’s plan.

II. IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE UNDERSTAND GOD’S WILL FOR US.
   A. Only in understanding it can we do it.
   B. God’s way and will is often contrary to human reasoning.
   C. Thus, the word of God is the only trustworthy source.
   D. Let each of us pray to God, “Teach me to wait.”

I. IN WAITING, STRENGTH IS RENEWED
   A. Strength is necessary for one to continue in life.
      1. Various levels of strength are required for different tasks.
      2. Also, there are various kinds of strength.
         a. Strength of mind -- mental health, intellectual.
         b. Strength of heart -- stoutheartedness.
         c. Strength of character -- moral

Changes in Telephone Area Code: Our area code has been 713 for Grace Missionary Baptist Church and my home. The Area Code has been changed to 281. Calls will continue to be put through with 713 or 281 until next May. In May, 1997 you will have to dial the 281 area code.
uprightness.
d. Strength of will — determination.
e. Strength of body — physical ability.
3. But strength gives way to weakness except renewed.
a. Strength may be renewed in all areas of life.
b. It is renewed by rest in proper proportions.
c. But spiritual strength is given of God (40:28).

B. The context of this passage is Scripture.
1. It speaks of Israel 150 years in advance.
a. Jerusalem would be destroyed.
b. Jews taken captive in Babylon for 70 years.
c. A time of severe discouragement.
d. A time when human strength would fail (40:30).
2. But it is a time when strength may be renewed.
a. By remembering His promises to them.
b. By realizing their hopelessness in their ability.
c. Bysubmitting their lives to God in belief.
He would deliver.

C. This principle applies to us all.
1. How many times have we worn ourselves out over problems without changing one thing?
2. How many times have we failed to see God's work in us until we simply "gave up" in the flesh?
3. How many times have we come to the end of strength and been excitingly motivated, renewed by the Lord?

II. IN WAITING, OBSTACLES ARE OVERRIDDEN
A. "...they shall lift up their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; ..." Amp.
B. The obstacle of feeling forsaken.
1. Everything conceivably adverse had happened to Israel.
a. Jerusalem destroyed.
b. Taken captive in a foreign land.
c. Psalm 137
2. But God does NOT forsake His people.
a. Psalm 121

c. He always knows and does what is best.
d. Example of Paul (II Cor. 12:9).

C. The obstacle of patience.
1. Like Israel of old, we want things to happen now.
a. But tribulation worketh patience.
b. Illus: fellow who prayed for patience, NOW.
2. Often we do not perceive God's way.
b. I Peter 3:9, God is not slack...
c. Hebrews 10:37, ...and will not tarry.

D. The obstacle of hopelessness.
1. Hope is trust in promises made.
2. As Israel, we have promises both sure and steadfast.
a. God is One Who promises and fulfills (Elohim).
b. Hope causes us to soar above present problems.

III. PERSEVERANCE IS ASSURED, IN WAITING.
A. "Run...and not grow weary, walk and not faint."

D. God is a God of perseverance
1. He predestined Israel to persevere.
2. He predestined the Church to persevere.
3. He predestined individuals to persevere in HIM.

IV. TEACH ME TO WAIT.
A. This is the secret, the key...text.
B. Who is the Lord and Who is the servant?
1. In our prayers, do we ask or tell?
2. In our worship, do we decide or let the Bible decide for us?
3. In our faith and conduct, do we boast: "What I believe" or "What the Bible says?"
4. In salvation, did we choose the time and place or did the Spirit of God?
5. In this service, did we come to do God a favor or did we come to wait on Him?

C. According to the Bible, God is moving on hearts through His word today.
1. It is important that we do not run ahead of God.
2. But it is also important that we do not lag behind in doing God's will.
3. The hope of salvation does not lie in the knowledge of the promise of God to save those who believe, but in the trusting of that promise personally.

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